

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-25 are pending in this application. In light of the amendments and remarks included herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. These amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-11, 14-15, and 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Sameshima* (USP 6,115,568); rejected claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Wakana* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0021916); and rejected claims 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sameshima* in view of OKI Technical Review. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Prior Art Rejections

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a detaching/attaching mechanism in which a contacting member is supported so as to be detachable/attachable from/to a supporting member, comprising: a holding member which supports the contacting member; a pushing member which pushes the contacting member via the holding member, in a direction toward the supporting member, in order to cause the contacting member to be in touch with the supporting member, by causing the pushing member to move in one direction, support of the contacting member by the holding member being released so that the contacting member is caused to be detached from the supporting member, wherein, the holding member includes position regulating means for regulating a position of the contacting member with respect to the holding member, when the contacting member is detached from the supporting member, and when the contacting member is detached from the supporting member, the contacting member is provided on the holding member; and a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main

body, includes a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening is formed in the main body and the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section.

Sameshima discloses the drawing unit 17 as a whole including the intermediate transfer unit 5 being drawn out of the device along with the second rail 19 so as to be detachable/attachable. Further *Sameshima* discloses a feature that the position of the drawing unit 17 is regulated by the groove 19b of the second rail 19 while the drawing unit 17 is drawn out of the device. However, *Sameshima* fails to teach or suggest a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main body, including a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening being formed in the main body and the contacting member being detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by *Sameshima*.

Wakana discloses, as a member for regulating position of the belt unit 12, the frame 43 which includes the cutout 36b and the frame 44 which includes a plurality of positioning means 27b and 38b. However *Wakana* fails to teach or suggest a slide section, which is slidable with respect to a main body, including a part of an outer covering and the pushing member, and an opening being formed in the main body and the contacting member being detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by *Wakana*.

It may further be appreciated that the claimed invention improves working efficiency. In the case where a recording medium is jammed, even when the jammed sheet is held between the contacting member and the supporting member, the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section and therefore it is easy to remove the jammed sheet. Further as an opening is formed in the main body of the device, and the contacting member is detached from the supporting member by sliding the slide section, it is therefore easy to detach/attach the contacting member.

In addition, a reduction of stress or damage to the contacting member and the jammed recording medium may be appreciated. If the slide section is slid in removing the jammed sheet,

the contacting member is detached from the supporting member in the device. As a result, it is possible to reduce stress or damage to the contacting member and the recording medium.

On the other hand, *Sameshima* has a feature that the drawing unit as a whole is drawn out of the device in removing a jammed recording medium. Therefore, stress or damage is likely to be applied to the drawing unit and the recording medium.

Further, improved durability of the present invention may be appreciated. The slide section does not support the contacting member. This allows reduction of weight applied on the slide section. As a result, attrition caused by sliding the slide section is reduced and therefore provide durability.

Still further, based upon the structure of the present invention as recited, a reduction of the number of components is possible.

Finally, a user may remove a jammed recording medium and attach/detach the contacting member by only sliding the slide section. As such, the user may easily learn how to handle the device.

For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the reference as cited. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 6, and 25 are allowable for the reasons set forth above regard to the claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 6-8 and 12 include elements similar to those set forth above regard to claim 1 and thus these claims, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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